

U.S. vetoes Lebanon resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States on Monday vetoed a Security Council Resolution to condemn Israel's arbitrary practices in occupied southern Lebanon. The Lebanese resolution won 11 of the council's 15 votes — two more than the minimum required for adoption, barring the veto. France, which has a 600-man contingent with the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, broke with its Western allies to support the resolution. Britain, Denmark and Australia abstained. The other members were India, Madagascar, Peru, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, the Soviet Union, Burkina Faso, China and Egypt.

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Northern Cyprus passes constitution

NICOSIA (R) — The Turkish Cypriot assembly in northern Cyprus Tuesday approved an independence constitution for the territory declared independent in 1983 but recognised only by Turkey. Voting 63 to nine the assembly approved the constitution to replace one dating from 1975. Unlike its predecessor the new document bears no reference to a possible future reunification of the Greek and Turkish communities on the island which has been divided since the 1974 invasion by Turkey. But the assembly, seeking to deflect criticism from abroad of the move, passed a resolution saying the new constitution corresponds to the eventual aim of a federal solution. United Nations-sponsored talks between Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş and Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou, representing the Greek Cypriots, which were aimed at ending the division, founded in January.

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Jordan-Djibouti trade talks open

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Djibouti Tuesday opened talks on promoting bilateral economic and trade relations. The talks were being conducted by teams led by Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and visiting Djibouti Minister of Industry and Industrial Development Fahmi Ahmad Al Haj. (See page 3). The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that the talks are within the framework of an earlier agreement signed by the two countries in April 1983 which provides for holding a Jordanian industrial and trade fair in Djibouti in November 1985, expanding the scope of economic cooperation between the two countries and encouraging the Jordanian private sector to implement housing and real estate projects in Djibouti as well as helping Djibouti to set up an industrial city.

Alitalia suspends Iraq, Iran flights

ROME (R) — The Italian airline Alitalia has suspended flights from Rome to Tehran and Baghdad as a result of the escalation in the war between Iran and Iraq, the airline said Tuesday. Alitalia, which has one flight to both capitals weekly, said the flights were being suspended temporarily and that a plan had been prepared if evacuation of Italian citizens from the two countries became necessary.

Last British mine goes back to work

STERLING, Scotland (AP) — Miners at Polmaise colliery, the last mine to hold out against the end of Britain's coal strike, went back to work Tuesday a year to the day after the start of the country's longest and bloodiest nationwide stoppage. But unlike other mines, where most strikers joined last week in a return to work coordinated by the National Union of Mineworkers, there were no brass bands or banners. The men quietly clocked on as the day shift started just before dawn. Polmaise was one of 20 mines earmarked for shutdown in a plan whose disclosure prompted the start of a nationwide walkout last March 12.

Renowned music director dies

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Eugene Ormandy, the Hungarian-born conductor who led the Philadelphia Orchestra for more than four decades, died at his home Tuesday at the age of 85, a spokesman for the orchestra said. Ormandy, recognised as a musical prodigy at the age of three, died after "extended cardiac illness" and pneumonia, he added.

Sudan continues crackdown

CAIRO (AP) — Two members of Sudan's parliament were relieved of their committee assignments Tuesday for belonging to the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency reported. Between 100 and 200 members and supporters of the Brotherhood were believed under arrest in Sudan after a weekend purge of the Brotherhood, Khartoum-based diplomats said Tuesday. Related story on page 2.

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Baghdad reports new ground offensive foiled on south front

Iraqis raid Tehran, five Iranian cities

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday its forces have launched air and rocket attacks against six Iranian cities, including the capital, Tehran, and repulsed an Iranian ground offensive in the southern Iraqi Huwazah marshland, a sensitive region leading to the Basra-Baghdad highway, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman, reading a communique on the state radio, identified the target cities as Tehran, Zanjan, Arak, Bushehr, Dezful and Masjed Suleiman.

The attacks came just an hour before both Iran and Iraq accepted a U.N. call to spare populated areas from shelling. Iraqi jet fighters raided "selected targets" in Tehran, Zanjan, Arak and Bushehr at 0200 hours (2300 GMT Monday), said the spokesman.

"All Iraqi jet fighters returned safely after scoring direct and effective hits on the targets," he said. Iraqi forces, according to the spokesman, also launched "devastating missile attacks on selected targets" in the cities of Dezful and Masjed Suleiman between 1900-2300 GMT Monday.

The surface-to-surface missiles "scored accurately on the targets," he said. The attacks, the spokesman said, were in retaliation for Iranian shelling of Iraqi cities. However, the southern Iraqi port of Basra enjoyed its first quiet night after a week of Iranian artillery shelling that left more than 100 people killed or wounded in the city, residents said Tuesday.

"We did not hear any shelling for the first time after a week of Iranian bombardment which destroyed scores of houses and killed dozens of people," one resident told Reuters by telephone. Calm returned to Basra, Iraq's second largest city with one million people, after Tehran agreed to a call by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to both Iran and Iraq to halt attacks on civilian areas from 2359 GMT Monday night.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who arrived in Paris Monday, said he was ready to fly to New York for talks with U.N. officials.

Iran said five people were killed and four others injured when three Iraqi jets rocketed northern Tehran about an hour before the midnight rocket deadline.

Tehran is 800 kilometres east of the border with Iraq. IRNA said the Iraqis also attacked the cities of Masjed Suleiman, Khorramabad and Boumrouj in southern Iran, Dezful in western Iran and Arak, 290 kilometres south of Tehran early Tuesday.

Iran, the agency said, fired surface-to-surface missiles at economic installations in the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk.

Iraq, however, denied the Iranian rocketing of Kirkuk. (Continued on page 3)

Mubarak briefs Reagan on initiative

WASHINGTON (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told President Reagan Tuesday of his proposals for moving ahead in the Middle East peace process and of Egypt's need for additional American aid.

As the White House meeting began, administration officials made clear they have questions about Mr. Mubarak's call for a U.S. meeting with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and said they believe the tight U.S. budget will not accommodate Egypt's large aid request.

The United States refuses to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) unless it specifically accepts U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab-Israeli conflict and recognises Israel.

Officials said a recent accord between Jordan and the PLO showed movement in the right direction but they want to know more about it.

They also want to know what is behind Mr. Mubarak's call for a U.S. meeting with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. If it means U.S. talks with PLO officials, the United States is not interested, they added.

Officials have welcomed Mr. Mubarak's call for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations but have been unclear about what is behind the idea of a joint delegation coming to Washington.

Israel is opposed to any negotiations from which it is excluded. The U.S. official said the administration was not interested.

Officials said a recent accord between Jordan and the PLO showed movement in the right direction but they want to know more about it. (Continued on page 3)



A Lebanese villager walks past the body of a victim of an Israeli raid on the South Lebanese village of Zrariyeh on Monday (AP wirephoto)

Hussein expresses grief over death of Soviet president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed his "deep-felt sorrow and grief" on the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko and said Jordan will always remember the late Soviet leader's "positive role in promoting Jordanian-Soviet ties and common interests."

In a message he sent to the Soviet leadership, the King also said that the Arab Nation "deeply appreciates the firm Soviet stand in support of just Arab causes, especially the Palestinian cause."

"In the name of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, government and people, I extend to you, the Soviet people and the bereaved family, profound sympathy and condolence at the loss of President Chernenko," King Hussein said in his message.

King Hussein also sent a cable of congratulations to Mr. Chernenko's successor, the newly-elected secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I am pleased to send to you and the friendly Soviet people, in my name, my government and people, the warmest congratulations on your election as secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee," King Hussein said in his message to Mr. Gorbachev.

He said Jordan, "which is bound to the Soviet Union with ties of friendship and mutual respect," looks forward to "further

cooperation and closer relations between the two peoples."

The Kremlin's latest leadership change buoyed Western hopes slightly as the three-tiered negotiations on space weapons and strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles opened behind the gates of the Soviet mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Kampelman did not say how deeply issues of substance were discussed at the 24-hour meeting or if, as officials hinted beforehand, it was devoted mainly to planning a work programme for negotiations that are likely to take several years.

Other diplomats said a plenary session to be held at a U.S. office building on Thursday would start getting into real detail on issues of substance. They acknowledged Tuesday's meeting was lengthy and may have involved some substantive issues.

The talks opened on schedule despite the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko on Sunday and his swift replacement as Communist leader by Mikhail

Soviets mourn Chernenko's death

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of people Tuesday filed past the flower-decked bier where the body of Konstantin Chernenko lay in state, watched over by his widow and family, as the Soviet Union officially mourned the late president.

Workers and officials flooded to Moscow in convoys of buses, in groups representing workplaces, from suburbs and other cities to pay their last respects.

They queued for several hours to file past the bier at the Hall of Columns opposite Red Square, where the body will be interred at a state funeral Wednesday.

It was a ritual the deaths of three Soviet leaders in three years had made familiar. Many of those queuing had filed past the bodies of Yuri Andropov in 1984 and Leonid Brezhnev in 1982.

Mr. Chernenko's widow Anna Dmitriyevna watched over the body with members of her family.

Foreign Ministry officials shepherded distinguished guests with practised expertise through police and security cordons ringing the Hall of Columns.

Despite official mourning, the Soviet Union, from the apparatus of government to the shopper in the street, gave an impression of "business as usual" as new Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev marked his first full day in office.

Moscow's main arterial routes were almost traffic-free, cleared of the taxis and battered trucks that usually clog them, in preparation for the arrival of foreign delegations.

U.S. Vice-President George Bush, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl were among world leaders arriving for the funeral.

Most will use the occasion to get acquainted with the new leader, at 54 the youngest Kremlin leader since Stalin (see page 4).

Inside the Hall of Columns, an 18th century mansion, Mr. Chernenko's body lay on a raised bier, decked with flowers and his decorations.

Black crepe shrouded the multi-tiered chandeliers and an orchestra played sombre music as the mourners shuffled past, the men bareheaded, women still in their fur hats of winter. Army officers, in greatcoats and carrying their high hats of grey astrakhan, laid wreaths from their regiments.

The air in the hall was filled with the heavy odour of cypress and spruce branches on the wreaths. Uniformed troops of the Interior Ministry, faced red from hours standing in temperatures just below freezing, blocked off

Gorbachev Monday. A U.S. offer to delay for a few days was turned aside by Moscow.

Mr. Kampelman, in a five-minute appearance at a crowded news conference, said the first "get acquainted" session involved "a serious and businesslike discussion of the issues."

The Washington lawyer, a loquacious briefer when he was U.S. negotiator at a European security conference in Madrid in the early 1980s, apologised that he was bound to secrecy, but said his main purpose was to talk to the Soviet Union.

"I am afraid I must decline to answer your questions," he told journalists who had been promised earlier that he would answer at least a few questions on the negotiations.

The official Soviet news agency TASS, in a report from Geneva, said genuine progress in halting the arms race would be possible if correct steps were taken at the talks, in line with a broad agreement reached by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in January.

There was no hint of any shift in the Soviet position as a result of the leadership change. Basic Soviet negotiating tactics were sent months ago, apparently by Mr. Gorbachev's personal involvement and approval, the diplomats said.

At least 2 Israelis killed in new attacks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two more Israeli soldiers were killed Tuesday in the continued resistance war against the Israeli occupation army in South Lebanon and a suicide attacker blew up his explosive-laden car near an Israeli convoy killing or wounding an unknown number of Israelis.

Few details were available on the suicide attack, just south of Jezzine, on the northwestern part of Israel's occupation lines, which was immediately sealed off by Israeli troops.

Israeli helicopters immediately swooped over the area and Israeli troops closed off nearby roads and combed surrounding fields, as resistance men opened up on them with automatic rifles, the sources said.

The attack came one day after Israeli troops killed at least 37 people in the South Lebanese village of Zrariyeh in their biggest military operation since they began a crackdown against resistance to their occupation of South Lebanon last month.

A suicide car bomb attack near the Israeli-Lebanese border on Sunday killed 12 Israeli soldiers and wounded 14.

The security sources said the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militia also closed off roads at the front line village of Kfar Falous, a few kilometres west of Jezzine.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army confirmed that a car exploded next to an Israeli military convoy in South Lebanon, and said it killed the car driver and wounded

one Israeli soldier. Israel army radio reported that a black Mercedes in an apparent suicide attack tried to ram the leading jeep of the convoy, but exploded next to it. The occupants of the jeep were thrown clear of their vehicle which flew into the air then exploded in another side of the road, the radio said.

The command announcement said the attack occurred just south of Jezzine, 28 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Four more Israeli soldiers were wounded close to the site of the first blast when a roadside bomb exploded next to a patrol, the command said.

In another incident, a car exploded outside the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashadiyeh, just south of the port of Tyre, killing five people and wounding two. There were no Israeli troops in the area at the time, Israel Radio reported.

Sources in South Lebanon, who asked not to be identified, told the Associated Press the vehicle was intended to be a car bomb but detonated ahead of schedule.

Earlier, the military command announced that two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded near the Qasmieh Bridge when light weapons fire opened up on an Israeli patrol.

Sources in the Shi'ite Amal movement said one commando was injured and six Israelis were killed or wounded.

(Continued on page 3)

House condemns Israeli actions in S. Lebanon

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday condemned Israel's arbitrary measures and assaults on citizens in occupied South Lebanon and appealed the Arab Nation to help Lebanon surmount the "challenges facing its existence."

In a statement issued after an extraordinary session, the House also praised the "heroic stand of the Lebanese people in their struggle for the liberation of Lebanon."

The statement called on all world countries "interested in liberty and peace" to help put an end to Israel's invasion on Arab territories.

The House also appealed to the Iranian people to respond to peace calls from the world at large and seek an end to the 53-month-old war with Iraq. The statement noted that Iraq has responded positively to calls to stop the war.

During Tuesday's session, the House passed laws pertaining to the Jordan Youth Organisation, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Public Transport Corporation, the Civil Registration Department and postal services.

The laws were passed after slight amendments.

— A draft law on the "Popular Army".

— An amendment to the law on a corporation for helping ex-servicemen; and

— A draft law to abolish the Jordan Hotel and Resthouse Corporation.

ARA men surrender after Ottawa drama

OTTAWA (Agencies) — Three gunmen who said they were Armenian revolutionaries Tuesday killed a Canadian security guard and took 11 people hostage in the Turkish embassy in Ottawa before surrendering to police after a four-hour siege.

Turkish Ambassador Coskun Kirca apparently jumped or was pushed from a second-floor embassy window during the early morning attack and suffered a broken leg and arm, police said.

They said the security guard was killed in a shoot-out with the gunmen when they stormed into the embassy, blowing off the front door with explosives.

The 11 hostages, including the ambassador's wife and children, were released unharmed after police, who earlier said only two gunmen were involved, negotiated by telephone with the attackers.

"Negotiations took place with the gunmen, who have now surrendered voluntarily," a police spokesman said.

The takeover began, according to police Sgt. Garry Rae, when gunmen appeared at the embassy shortly after 7 a.m. (1200 GMT).

"They were confronted by a security guard at that point and shots were exchanged," he told the Canadian Press news agency. "The front door of the embassy was blown off by an explosive," he said.

About 100 city police officers were at the scene and had cordoned off about 10 square blocks. Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police also were there.

Iraq to send home 22 Iranian prisoners

ANKARA (Agencies) — About 22 Iranian prisoners of war are to be sent home by Iraq shortly through Turkey, Iraqi Ambassador Taha Mahmoud Al Kaysi said Tuesday.

Iraq earlier this month released 27 disabled Iraqi prisoners of war in a deal arranged by the Turkish Red Crescent Society, which brought them to Ankara on their way back to Iraq.

The ambassador told a news conference the Iranian prisoners would be freed "shortly, when the formalities are completed". Turkey has frequently been used by its two warring neighbours as a convenient place to exchange prisoners.

Meanwhile U.N. General Assembly President Paul Lusaka said the U.N. could arrange a peacekeeping force if Iran and Iraq agreed to a ceasefire, but it was powerless to end the fighting.

"If Iran and Iraq declared a ceasefire then the U.N. could decide through the Security Council we need a peacekeeping force to maintain the ceasefire," he told reporters here Monday night before leaving Kuwait after a week-long visit.

But he added: "The United Nations cannot force anything on either Iraq or Iran... (it) can only request, urge and try to persuade the warring parties to refrain from more fighting."

He proposed a joint appeal by the U.N. secretary-general, the Security Council president and the Organisation of Islamic Conference to both sides to adhere not only to their accord last June to stop attacking civilian targets, but to halt all fighting.

Meantime, the Security Council and international community had to avoid taking sides in the conflict, he stated.

"We cannot condemn one party

against the other," he said, adding this would damage efforts to negotiate peace.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi said Tuesday he hoped "the international community could conduct a more active and energetic action for peace" between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Klibi, speaking to reporters after meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, added that he hoped the international effort to end the war could be implemented through the U.N. Security Council.

"France, which is a permanent member of the Security Council, is capable of conducting an action to allow an end to hostilities and the opening of a process for a political solution to the conflict based on international law," he said.

Mr. Klibi met with Mr. Mitterrand as part of the "committee of seven," a group organised under Arab League auspices in March 1984 to try to end the war.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tarek Aziz represents his country in the group and met with the French President. Mr. Aziz refused to speak to reporters afterwards.

The other member nations in the group are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Mr. Aziz had been scheduled to meet with his French counterpart, Roland Dumas, on Wednesday. But Mr. Dumas has prolonged his trip to Moscow to attend funeral services for late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, and it is unclear if he will be able to meet with Mr. Aziz.

A Senior Japanese Foreign

Ministry official separately summoned the Iranian and Iraqi ambassadors in Tokyo Tuesday and asked the two countries to halt attacks on civilian targets, a ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said Vice Foreign Minister Kensuke Yanagiya met with Iranian Ambassador Abdollah Gavaht in the morning and Iraqi Ambassador Muhammad Amin Al Jaffi in the afternoon.

The spokesman said Mr. Gavaht and Mr. Jaffi each emphasised that his country was ready to halt such attacks on densely populated areas if the other was willing to do so. He said the ministry had the impression that the two countries would accept a U.N. call to stop attacks.

Last Wednesday, Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe expressed serious concern over the intensification of the Iran-Iraq war and urged the two countries to refrain from escalating attacks. As of Oct. 1, 1984, 1,645 Japanese were in Iraq and 959 in Iran.

The spokesman quoted Mr. Gavaht as saying that "Iraq began attacking Iran first and that it isn't fair to treat Iran and Iraq equally... If Iraq stops attacking, we will do so."

Mr. Jaffi was quoted as saying that "Iraq attacked economic areas, not densely populated areas. If Iraq stops attacking, we will do so."

In Ankara Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal on Monday called on Iranian and Iraqi governments to cease attacks in civilian areas in the war-stricken countries.

Mr. Ozal expressed regret over the escalation of the war between Turkey's neighbours.

Turkey has good relations with both Iran and Iraq and maintains strict neutrality concerning the war, now in its fifth year.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger (left) greets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) Monday prior to their meetings (AP wirephoto)

Syrian president sworn in

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad was sworn in before parliament Tuesday for a third seven-year term as president starting from Wednesday.

Mr. Assad, 54, won his third term in a referendum on Feb. 11 with 99.97 per cent of the votes. He became president in 1971 following a bloodless coup which he led five months earlier.

In a speech to the nation after his re-election, Mr. Assad said: "We will continue together on the road of struggle, however long and difficult, and will continue to confront the Zionist enemy until victory is achieved."

Qatari emir cuts visit

ANKARA (R) — The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, left Ankara Tuesday after cutting short a state visit to Turkey by 24 hours.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported his departure without saying why the Gulf state leader was leaving early, but informed sources said the decision was thought to be connected with the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Turkey and Qatar Monday signed a five-year economic and technical cooperation accord intended to boost relations in several fields and permit a range of joint commercial ventures.

The two sides said in a joint statement released later in Ankara and Doha that no peace could be achieved in the Middle East unless Israel first withdrew from all occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and recognised Palestinian rights.

They called for "the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon so that Lebanon can restore its complete sovereignty and rebuild its national unity."

They also expressed concern over the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.

U.S. anxious to discuss new Arab initiatives

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. officials are anxious to discuss the prospects for new Arab initiatives toward eventual direct negotiations with Israel as part of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's current working visit to the United States, a senior State Department official has said.

The official told reporters at the Foreign Press Centre here, "I think that is very much on President Mubarak's mind. And that is very much in our minds. So we are watching the current process with great interest. And we are asking the types of questions that we think are important for the next stage."

"We want to hear what President Mubarak has to say to us," said the official. "We have always regarded the objective of negotiations as direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. That is why we have an initial question—how do separate talks with the United States, if that is what President Mubarak is proposing, advance the purpose of direct negotiations between the parties directly concerned?"

"We note that King Hussein has just been in Cairo and we'll be very interested in hearing what President Mubarak is bringing us on that subject," he said. "We are looking forward to those discussions because we have always considered Egypt to be a partner in the peace process."

"If all we have, in the end, is a vaguely-worded framework agreement between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, that really is not, in itself, worth a great deal. What is worthwhile is if this process can be moved to a point where direct negotiations with Israel become a reality. I think it is sometime in the future before we know whether that is going to be possible."

"If this agreement means acceptance of (United Nations Security Council Resolution) 242," the official said, "then we think that's a positive step. If this agreement means direct negotiations, then we think that's a positive step."

"President Mubarak is a very close friend," he said. "He is somebody whose advice we value."

We think this visit comes at a very appropriate time. We recognise that there is a process that is going on now in the Arab World as a number of Arab parties are making real efforts to organise themselves for the possibility of entering negotiations."

The agency provided no details on the discussions, but Mr. Kreisky has proposed setting up a United Nations mission for solving the Middle East problem.

Interviewed by the UAE daily Emirates News, Mr. Kreisky said he felt that the United Nations "must do something" about the Middle East problem.

Mr. Kreisky described as "negative" the United States stand on the Middle East and added "we should remember that the American stand has, from the beginning, rejected the idea of an international conference and has consequently turned down its own participation."

The proposed U.N. mission would visit the countries of the region and would deal with all the problems of the Arab-Israeli conflict through a conference which he said should be attended by the concerned parties including the superpowers.

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Mubarak plan viewed as 'highly constructive'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States views Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's two-stage peace proposal as "highly constructive" and will be seeking more information about Egypt's view of the Middle East peace process when President Reagan meets with Mr. Mubarak.

A senior administration official said Monday that Washington's view is based on reports of Mr. Mubarak's proposal and that Washington will be "exploring with the president how he sees his initiative developing and what role the United States can play to facilitate this."

Mr. Mubarak has proposed direct negotiations between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and as a first step, talks between the United States and the joint delegation.

"We'll be interested," the U.S. official noted, "in what scenarios President Mubarak has in mind."

The official told reporters Washington considers the Egyptian proposals "activity aimed at getting direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs under way." He said the "key" will be the ability to "produce an Arab interlocutor able and willing to sit at the bargaining table with Israel."

The official noted that "parallel" to movement in the Arab World on peace, Cairo and Tel Aviv have intensified their dialogue, which the official said has "certainly helped to improve the atmosphere of that relationship. We are pleased with the enhanced dialogue and hope it will lead to a tangible and sustained improvement in that relationship."

The official pointed out that Cairo, from its "hours and hours" of negotiations with Tel Aviv over the years, knows better than any other Arab Nation the benefits and the value of direct negotiation.

He said the signs of movement on the Arab side, as well as Israel's cautious interest in the Mubarak plan, are welcome developments. He noted that it is "no small step" for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to talk, as it did in the statement of a joint framework with Jordan, of accepting relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Security Council Resolution 242 is considered by the United States as the key to a settlement, and, although the PLO has not specifically embraced it, the organization has previously talked of accepting "United Nations" resolutions. The official, noting the acceptance of Security Council resolutions, asked: "Why can't they articulate 242?" The official also noted that the PLO had also accepted dropping the word "independent" from a description of a possible Palestinian state.

The official told a questioner the United States "wants to hear Mr. Mubarak's views concerning what Palestinians would be involved in a joint delegation. Israel has ruled out negotiating with officers of the PLO, a group which has refused to recognise Israel's right to exist as a nation."

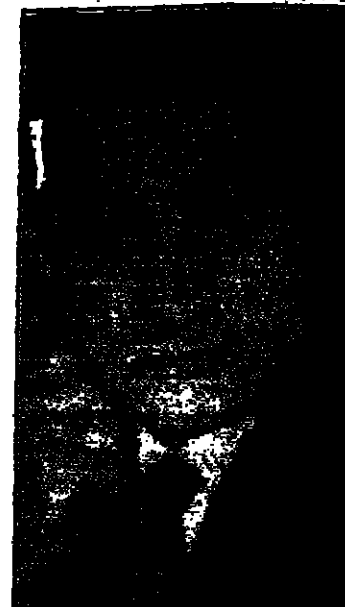
The United States does not meet or have dealings with the PLO and does not extend recognition to the group because of its stance on Israel's right to exist.

The absence of an Egyptian ambassador in Israel, the official told a questioner, is a situation which "deeply troubles" many Americans, including some members of Congress who have threatened to cut U.S. aid to Egypt to express their displeasure. "That is a significant political fact," the official acknowledged, but he noted that the administration holds there is no connection between aid levels and the lack of an ambassador. As part of the Camp David accords, the two nations agreed to exchange ambassadors as part of the peace treaty's call for normal relations between them. A dispute over ownership of a small portion of the Sinai desert, as well as Egyptian displeasure over Israel's invasion of Lebanon, resulted in recalling the ambassador.

The official noted "the peace is intact... it is not as warm as we would like it." But he added that the administration does not believe tying the return of the ambassador to U.S. aid levels would be a "useful" response.

Assistance levels will be a major topic of discussion, the official said, with the administration regarding Egypt's need for more aid as "compelling." But a combination of U.S. budget constraints and Egypt's lack of structural economic reform is likely to keep the administration's request at \$815 million in economic supporting funds and \$1,300 million in military grants. The official, noting Egypt's desire for relief from the \$450 million a year cost of repaying previous military loans, pointed out that the president is forbidden by law from waiving repayment. The United States did, starting with the 1985 budget, make all military assistance to Egypt in the form of grants rather than loans.

In addition to his meetings with Mr. Reagan, Mr. Mubarak is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Shultz, Defence Secretary Weinberger, Treasury Secretary Baker, Commerce Secretary Baldrige and Special Relations Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.



Hosni Mubarak

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King expresses sympathy to relatives of 6 soldiers killed in training exercise

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday delegated the Irbid and Ma'an governors to convey his sympathy to the relatives of those killed in the Dead Sea accident two days ago. The deceased were an army officer and five military academy cadets who were drowned during a training exercise in the Dead Sea, according to a spokesman for the Jordanian Armed Forces headquarters here Monday. He said that the incident occurred at midnight Sunday when a boat, carrying the cadets and their trainers, overturned due to bad weather conditions.

Also Tuesday Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat delegated the governor of Ma'an and the director of police in Irbid to convey his condolences to the families of the deceased.

Those who drowned were an army major and five cadets, while another army officer was injured. Two of the cadets were still missing and a search was underway to find them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yusuf tours Karak police departments

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Director Diab Yusuf Tuesday made an inspection tour of police departments in Karak Governorate and was briefed on their needs and problems. Lt. Gen. Yusuf first stopped at the police and civil defence centres along the Desert Highway linking Amman with Aqaba and inspected their services. He later proceeded to Tafleh's centres and those in the southern Jordan Valley area where he met with their officers and later attended a ceremony for honouring 14 local citizens in recognition of their cooperation with the police to safeguard security.

Parliamentary team leaves for Dakar

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation left for Senegal Tuesday to take part in an Arab-African dialogue which is due to open in Dakar on March 15. The delegation, which is led by Rashid Ureikat, includes Rihhi Mustafa and Dr. Nazih Ammarin as members.

Cabinet allows instalments on duties

AMMAN (Petra) — Merchants and owners of goods lorries and vehicles lying at the Mahatta and Oweimeh bonding stations awaiting clearance can now pay customs duty on them in instalments, according to a decision by the cabinet announced Tuesday. The cabinet announcement said that merchants have until April 30 to arrange for payment of the customs on these goods and that the instalments can be spread over the coming months ending on Dec. 15, 1985.

Ministry's nurseries start selling saplings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has started selling olive tree saplings produced recently at Al Hussein and Al Faisal nurseries for 50 fils each. The ministry announced that it is also selling bitter orange saplings at 30 fils each. The ministry said saplings are for sale to the public at both nurseries.



Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz (second left) is seen off at the airport at the conclusion of his visit to Jordan. Mr. Gratz met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian officials during his stay (Petra photo)

Civil servants receive salary increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet Tuesday announced that civil servants and government employees will get a raise in salary effective March, 1985 and authorised directors of government departments to implement instructions pertaining to the salary increases.

According to the announcement, basic salaries of employees holding special grades, the highest on the civil service commission scale, will be increased by JD 30 a month and all the other employees will get a raise in accordance with their grades, which will not be less than JD 9 a month.

Those employees with basic salaries should get at least JD 10 a month and no more than JD 35 a month, the announcement said. The announcement said that daily paid workers in various government ministries will receive an increase of 200 fils per day. The last salary increase for government employees was announced in 1980 when Abdul Hamid Sharaf was prime minister.

In accordance with the regulations of the civil service, employees are classified into 10 grades with the top being grade one, and with grade 10 at the bottom of the scale. The first six grades are classified as group one and those in the rest of grades are classified as group two.

Djibouti economic delegation arrives for talks on bilateral trade exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — An economic delegation from Djibouti arrived in Amman Tuesday for talks with Jordanian officials designed to bolster economic and trade ties between Jordan and Djibouti.

The delegation is led by Mr. Fahmi Ahmad Al Haj, Djibouti's minister of industry and industrial development, who said in an arrival statement that he was carrying a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Djibouti President Haj Hassan Gouled dealing with bilateral relations.

He said that his delegation's visit came in response to an invitation by Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and is designed to promote trade and economic exchange between Jordan and Djibouti, which looks forward to benefitting from Jordan's expertise to help modernise and develop Djibouti.

Towards the end of the minister's visit he will sign minutes of talks conducted with Jordanian ministers which, he said, will cover bilateral cooperation in trade, joint industrial ventures and holding trade fairs and the exchange of visits by representatives of the Jordanian and Djibouti's public and private sectors.

The Djibouti minister was greeted upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport by Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and representatives of the private sector in Jordan.

Hassan, Austrian foreign minister discuss bilateral issues

Gratz cuts short visit; stresses Soviet role in Mideast peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz Tuesday cut short his visit to Jordan and flew home where he will proceed to Moscow to attend the funeral of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. Mr. Gratz, who was scheduled to give a press conference in Amman Wednesday and leave on Thursday, Tuesday met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The minister, who was accompanied by his delegation, discussed bilateral relations and ways to further bolster them in addition to the situation in the Middle East in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Austria's Ambassador to Jordan Arnold Moebius and the Jordanian ambassador to Austria, Petra said.

Before his departure from Amman, Mr. Gratz said that during his three-day stay in Jordan he

held important political talks with Jordanian officials and was briefed in detail on Jordan's stand by Prince Hassan. "I am convinced that the Jordanian proposals for bringing about peace represent a unique opportunity," Mr. Gratz said. He was quoted by Petra as saying that his country will do everything possible to support the Jordanian proposals with a view to achieving peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Gratz who was originally scheduled to meet with His Majesty King Hussein said that there are great chances for cooperation between Jordan and Austria in

political, economic and cultural fields.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Gratz said that the Soviet Union must be a party to any Middle East settlement. "Very realistically, the Soviet Union must be included in a final peace agreement," he said in an interview after talks with Jordanian officials. Mr. Gratz told Reuters a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement last month on a joint approach to peace was "the first move after so many years of stalemate and frustration which seems to have a chance of succeeding."

One reason was that the accord was between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is the representative of the people concerned, he said.

Also, the agreement was based on United Nations Security Council resolutions, which meant it was based on a political decision in which all permanent members of the council participated, including the USSR, he added.

Ministry of Health plans to improve medical services in clinics, centres

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health has drawn up an integrated plan to provide all towns, villages and population settlements with various medical services and to raise the standard of such services in hospitals and medical centres around the country, Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni said here Tuesday.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Ajlouni said that the plan envisages improved medical care for the old, children, school children and mothers.

He said that the plan will be carried out in two stages ending with the setting up of integrated health centres in all regions of Jordan.

Dr. Ajlouni added.

He said that paramedics to be supplied to these centres are being trained at two centres in Amman and Irbid. These centres have to date turned out 700 paramedics who have been employed in the ministry's centres around the country, the minister added.

Rural health centres

Dr. Ajlouni said that Jordan has 150 health centres at present but intends to increase them considerably during this year, especially in the rural regions of the Kingdom. Proper medical services help to stem the movement of people from rural to urban regions and at the same time raise the standard of health in all regions, the minister said.

The Health Ministry has so far transformed 100 of these centres into integrated units with most of the required staff present, Dr. Ajlouni said.

Referring to the number of hospital beds the minister said that



Kamel Ajlouni

Jordan's government hospitals now have 3,620 beds and private sector hospitals have 1,232 beds. He said that 3,421 of these hospital beds in the private and public sectors are located in Amman.

Referring to doctors, the minister said that 1,081 doctors are employed in the public sector and 1,208 are working in the private sector and again most of these doctors and specialists are, a total of 1,502, live in Amman.

At least 2 Israelis killed

(Continued from page 1)

Shortly afterwards, eyewitnesses told Reuters they saw Israeli ambulances carrying wounded soldiers race through Tyre city and the volume of military traffic on the road to Qasmieh rise sharply.

Amal sources said the attack near the Qasmieh Bridge on Israel's Litani River "frontlines" north of Tyre was condemned the "Zrariyeh Operation."

In Zrariyeh, the South Lebanese village which was raided by the Israelis Monday, villagers Tuesday buried men who were among the 37 victims of an Israeli raid the day before, with women shrieking and men threatening to fight "with our teeth, with our nails" to drive out Israel's occupation force.

The Israeli force that had raided Zrariyeh left its occupation zone for the attack, entering the village on a road that passes the cemetery where a bulldozer had carved out the graves for Tuesday's funeral. Israeli troops in tanks and armoured carriers stormed the town Monday, overpowering the Lebanese army garrison and arresting 20 Lebanese soldiers who resisted. The soldiers were later released.

Villagers, surviving militiamen and soldiers said Israeli tanks and field artillery began shelling the village at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) Sunday and pushed into the town from three directions at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) Monday.

The 30-man Lebanese army garrison supported by local militiamen from Amal fought to halt the thrust but were quickly overwhelmed, the Lebanese said.

Amal's intelligence chief, Akel Hamiye, said the Lebanese army resisted for half an hour and that two Lebanese soldiers were killed and four wounded.

A village police official, who requested anonymity, said about 1,000 Israeli soldiers took part in the raid.

The Israelis withdrew just before sundown, covering their retreat with smoke bombs. Reporters waiting in near villages along with Lebanese and international Red Cross teams then entered the battered town of 8,000 to 10,000 inhabitants.

At least 12 bodies lay in or outside bullet-riddled cars. One victim wearing a green jacket and blue jeans lay flat on his back, soaked with blood. A charred body lay in a car obviously struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The track of an armoured personnel carrier could be seen on a crushed Volvo's rooftop. The body of a victim was sandwiched in the back seat and only his shoes were visible.

Among the dead were two Lebanese soldiers and 17 militiamen from Amal, Lebanon's largest paramilitary Shi'ite group. The rest were civilians, according to the latest police report on the outcome of the Israeli thrust.

Reporters also saw a message written in black spray paint on the walls of the town's main square that read: "This is the revenge of the Israeli defence forces."

The independent Beirut newspaper Al Anwar said Tuesday the Lebanese government has established that the suicide attacker who crashed the bomb-laden car into an Israeli military convoy in occupied South Lebanon on Sunday was a young woman.

"She is a southerner. But her full identity will remain a closely guarded secret," Al Anwar quoted unnamed official sources as saying.

All three groups that claimed responsibility for the bombing had referred to the attacker as a man. A few hours after the Zrariyeh raid, resistance men attacked an Israeli position with automatic weapons just inside occupation lines near Dair Qanoun An Nahr village, security sources in the south said. There was no word on casualties.

The sources in the south said Israeli troops have been attacked at least 90 times this month. Tyre residents said Israeli troops appeared very nervous since Sunday's suicide bombing.

An Israeli strongpoint near Tyre shot more than 200 rifle rounds at a Finnish U.N. ambulance carrying a sick girl, her father and a doctor to the town at dusk Tuesday, the sources said. Bullets ricocheted from the ground into the vehicle.

The doctor, driver and father left the vehicle, which was flying a medical Red Cross flag, and shouted their identity at the checkpoint 100 metres distant but the Israelis continued firing around them. United Nations peacekeeping force spokesman Timor Goksel confirmed a U.N. ambulance had been fired at and said the U.N. would protest to the Israeli army. "The ambulance's movement was coordinated in advance with the Israelis and street lights were working. There was no justification for the shooting," he said.

King sends condolences to Moscow

(Continued from page 1)

bolstering of bilateral ties for the best interest of the two peoples and for their mutual benefit."

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Nation at large deeply appreciate the Soviet Union's stand in support of their just causes as well as the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland," King Hussein added.

The King expressed hope that Mr. Gorbachev "will continue to show support for Arab causes and will pursue all efforts aimed at further bolstering Arab-Soviet friendship and mutual respect."

An official Jordanian delegation left for Moscow Tuesday to attend the funeral of Mr. Chernenko due to be held in Red Square Wednesday. The delegation, led by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, includes Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb.

Mubarak briefs Reagan

(Continued from page 1)

in "anything that smacks of pre-negotiation of the American position."

Mr. Mubarak, who arrived in Washington from Paris on Saturday and had talks Monday with top American officials.

Mr. Mubarak's meetings began with Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger. Mr. Weinberger refused to disclose what they discussed.

Egypt, the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid after Israel, is reported to want an additional \$850 million American aid this year and has called for up to \$1 billion more next year. Planned grant economic aid for Egypt now totals \$1.8 billion over two years.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) Tuesday announced a series of new accords under present aid levels.

Under the accords, Washington will provide \$200 million for commodity imports, \$195 million for a Cairo sewerage project, \$100 million in cash transfers and \$20 million for a production credit project.

Iraqis raid Iranian cities

(Continued from page 1)

The Iraqi News Agency (INA), quoted official sources in Kirkuk as saying the city "was not subjected to any rocketing."

The sources said "agents hired by the Iranian regime infiltrated overnight to some of the city's areas and planted explosives set to go off at a time determined by their master abroad in order to create strong noise and enable Tehran to announce that the city was rocketed."

The Iraqi high command earlier announced its ground forces "surrounded and isolated" invading Iranian forces in the Huweizah marshes.

Each side reported inflicting heavy casualties on the other in the latest ground fighting. Officials in the southern Iraqi port of Basra described the attack as a major offensive and said fighting was still underway.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said the attack had been repelled with heavy losses among the Iranian troops.

Iran's chief U.N. delegate Rajae-Khorassani said in New York Monday 822 people were

killed and at least 2,630 wounded in Iraqi attacks on 24 Iranian towns.

No official death toll has been published by Iraq. But more than 100 people were killed or wounded in Basra alone, according to unofficial estimates.

More than 800 artillery shells fell on the city during the past week, destroying or damaging over 100 houses, two mosques, one hospital and two schools, residents said.

In Paris, an Arab League ministerial committee led by Secretary-General Chadi Klibi appealed at a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand for France to promote greater international efforts through the U.N. Security Council to end the Gulf war.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Aziz also attended the meeting. In Ankara, meanwhile, Iraqi Ambassador Taha Mahmoud Al Kayasi said about 22 Iranian prisoners of war would be sent home shortly from Iraq through Turkey.

In London, Lloyd's shipping intelligence said Iran and Iraq have hit 127 ships in attacks in the Gulf since May 1981.

Soviets mourn leader's death

(Continued from page 1)

streets around the Hall of Columns to all but those with official passes.

Convoys of army trucks were lined outside the Bolshoi Theatre. Red flags with black streamers fluttered in the slight breeze as they hung from beneath eaves still laden with snow.

Most foreign leaders attending the funeral were arriving Tuesday night and planned to pay their last respects immediately or Wednesday morning, when the coffin will be taken on a gun carriage in the procession to Red Square a few hundred metres away.

The official news agency TASS outlined plans for the funeral in a report from the burial commission headed by Mr. Gorbachev.

An earlier announcement said the funeral would begin at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT), when Mr. Chernenko's body will be carried from the House of Columns and placed on a gun-carriage that will bear it across Revolution Square to Red Square.

"At the moment his body is lowered into the grave at 1:40 p.m. Moscow time, artillery salutes shall be fired in Moscow, the capitals of the (15) union republics and 17 other cities including his home town of Krasnoyarsk, the TASS story said.

At the same time, most enterprises and other workplaces around the country will stop work

for five minutes and factory, railway and ship whistles will be blown for three minutes, TASS said.

Meanwhile, the West quietly welcomed Mr. Gorbachev as new leader of the Soviet Union as fresh U.S.-Soviet arms talks opened in Geneva, bringing hopes for better East-West relations.

Condolence messages flowed to Moscow paying tribute to Mr. Chernenko, who was widely seen as a stopgap leader dogged by illness who had little time to make a mark on Soviet policy.

There was a feeling that, with the 54-year-old Gorbachev in command, a new generation was taking over in the Kremlin with an outlook that heralded better relations with the West.

Most Western leaders refrained from voicing their views. But hopes of a fresh start in ties with Moscow were tempered in editorial comment by two considerations — that the Soviet leadership is collective, and that Mr. Gorbachev did not get to the top by displaying "liberal" tendencies.

"The government basically remains the same group of individuals," President Reagan commented. He said that, while he was anxious to meet Mr. Gorbachev, the new man had to be given time to "establish his own regime."

Planners focus on primary health care through integrated medical facilities

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

in 1984 only.

More and better centres

AMMAN — In Jordan, as in most Arab states, we are today witnessing a more pragmatic approach towards health. Health planners are now shunning the construction of large urban hospitals and are moving towards the building of smaller health units in the outlying areas. This approach goes hand in hand with a general drive towards improving and expanding Primary Health Care (PHC) services.

This is a special concern for Jordan's Minister of Health, Kamel Al Ajlouni, who has a youthful drive and desire to change, and who has received a large part of his training at the innovative World Health Organisation (WHO) conducted programmes at the University of Shiraz, Iran. During his years as Minister of Health for this country, he has increased the number and the facilities of the Primary Health Care centres around the Kingdom, as well as of the Mother and Child Health centres.

Officers at the Ministry of Health, many of whom regard Dr. Ajlouni as a "very ambitious man", are now preparing, with great hope and expectation, a new project of potentiation of the existing Primary Health Care centres, extending them to cover specialised areas as well.

Ninety per cent of primary health care includes the people's understanding of their own problems. While, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the hospitals are just waiting passively for patients to come for repair, primary health care calls for centres integrated in the communities and aware of the local problems, able to offer their assistance on the people's very level, gaining their confidence and helping them to find solutions to their health problems.

PHC centres attract more people if the physicians are living in and understand their community. There are now over 150 PHC in Jordan, 51 of which were started

The goal now is not just to build more such centres, but to also improve their services so they will attract more people and be better able to meet their needs. Officials at the Ministry of Health have reported to the Jordan Times that the three main goals the minister is presently focusing on are increasing the number of facilities of the PHC centres, improving the type of services and making the staff totally integrated in the community.

Some of the centres already have laboratory facilities and specialists available, but the next major step the ministry is concentrating its efforts on is turning these centres into what are known as comprehensive health centres. Comprehensive health centres will include basic hospital facilities and enough specialists to be able to diagnose and treat most cases without having to refer the patients to a hospital which, in many cases, may be far from the patient's residence. By creating a step between Primary Health Centres and hospitals, these comprehensive health centres will also ease the load of the hospitals, to which only the most serious cases will be referred.

Recent improvements

Primary Health Care centres have already improved much in the past few years. In the past, one physician was often responsible for four or five clinics at the same time so he could never be in one of them at all times. This created loss of trust in the patients who could not rely on the physician's presence in case of emergencies.

The physician, in the past, was also usually living in a large city, only visiting the centres and not living in the rural communities. Now the emphasis has been placed on encouraging the physicians to live with his patients and to run only one centre, giving the com-

munity the confidence that he will be available when needed.

In order to make physicians more community-related, training programmes have been prepared by the ministry and are given in one month courses to all physicians and specialists who are to work in Primary Health Care centres. The obstacles are not few, here as elsewhere in the world, since most universities still do not provide physicians with the kind of education they will need to work in Primary Health Care. They are rather trained as selective specialists and that is the direction they usually prefer to take, regardless of the needs of the country.

Officials at the Ministry of Health said that in Jordan, the universities still give only a minimum information about Primary Health Care, but added that they felt optimistic that, in the future, everyone will understand the situation better and cooperate.

Incentives for rural doctors

At present, incentives need to be offered to physicians who work in the rural communities, such as priority in fellowships, residency programmes, constant improvement of facilities and equipment.

Although some Primary Health Care centres at the present already have specialists working hand in hand with the general practitioner, the term and concept of comprehensive health care centres is new for this country, and the job of building, furnishing and staffing these centres will require approximately six years of hard work, according to officials at the Ministry of Health. Presently, 40 such centres have been planned. Whilst most of the financial load for this new project will be on the shoulders of the Ministry of Health, the ministry is hoping to receive help from other organisations, particularly the World Bank, which will undoubtedly speed and ease the work.

Aga Khan announces Islamic Programme expansion

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — The Aga Khan, imam of the Ismaili Muslims, has announced a major commitment in the field of architectural education for the Islamic world. He was in Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA) to sign an agreement with two leading universities, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, for the extension and expansion of the joint Aga Khan programme for Islamic architecture, originally established in 1979.

The new agreement consists of a grant of \$900,000 per year over the next five years which will ensure the expansion and diversification of the programme, which, on its inception five years ago, was provided with an ongoing endowment of \$9 million and supplementary funding for current programmes of \$2.5 million. Part of the new grant will be used to continue those activities already established. However, the major share of this new grant will sup-

port two significant additional activities, a masters degree programme in "design for Islamic cultures", the first of its kind in the Western world, and the development of special links with a number of programmes and institutions in the Islamic world.

The programme's broad goals are to improve education, encourage research and develop information sources for historians of Islamic architecture and for architects and urbanists currently planning for building in Muslim societies.

During the past five years, the Aga Khan programme for Islamic architecture has enhanced resources in Islamic studies by supporting the development of library collections at both universities, by funding faculty appointments through the Aga Khan professorships and its visiting professor programme and by making fellowships available to enable doctoral students at both universities to study Islamic art and archi-

tectural traditions. Over 700 participants from throughout the Islamic world have attended a series of seminars and conferences held at Cambridge (Massachusetts), Karachi, Singapore, and Tunis. A series of summer seminars, entitled "design in Islamic cultures" was conducted under the organisation and direction of Dr. Mona Serageldin.

In addition to the faculty and student programmes and the series of seminars and conferences, the Aga Khan programme also helped finance the updating of the basic bibliography in Islamic art and architectural studies, K.A.C. Creswell's bibliography of the architecture, arts and crafts of Islam, undertaken by scholars at the American University of Cairo, "a guide to the Islamic monuments of Morocco, and a book on traditional Yemen architecture by Fernando Veranda of Portugal".

The original endowment also provided funds for expanded information facilities in Harvard's

Fogg Museum library and MIT's Rotch library, and the development of a unique computer-based videodisc resource for the gathering and dissemination of information throughout the Islamic world.

Plans for the second phase include a new specialisation in design for Islamic cultures in the Master's degree programme at the MIT School of Architecture and Planning, new courses at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and the development of an outreach programme of collaboration between the Aga Khan programme and a small number of parallel institutions in the Islamic world. Other new grant funds have been made available for expanding endowment supported student aid including scholarships for professional degree students and special aid to foreign students.

A MIT master of science in architectural studies will admit its first students in the new Islamic design specialisation in the autumn of 1985. The speciality is structured for students who wish to develop design skills required for practice, teaching or research in the architecture of the Islamic countries and communities.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in the presence of President Bok of Harvard University and President Gray of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Aga Khan said that these two institutions today constitute the single largest resource base for Islamic architecture in the world.

Referring to the next phase of the expanded programme the Aga Khan said, "In addition to the newly established masters degree programme in design for Islamic cultures, the programme will also encompass an outreach dimension directed at selected institutions teaching architecture and environmental design in the Islamic world. The intent here is to build bridges with institutions of higher

learning in the Muslim world".

The Aga Khan programme will also strive in the coming years to become a common meeting ground — a place for exchange of ideas — for researchers in architecture and design.

Outstanding scholars who have participated in the various activities in the Aga Khan programme include Professor Oleg Grabar, specialist in Islamic art at Harvard University, Professor William Porter, former dean of the MIT School of Architecture and Planning, Dr. Leila Ali Embrahim of Egypt, Professor Sirajul Islam of the University of Dhaka, Professor Gulzar Haider of Carleton University, Canada, Abdulla Bokhari and Dr. Saleh Al-Hathloul of Saudi Arabia, Professor Muhsin Mahdi of Harvard University and Professor Nazli Choucri of the MIT, (members of the Aga Khan programme advisory committee) and Mehmet Dorek Pamir of Turkey.

Jordan award scheme pilot venture launched

By Brian Maudsley and Samir Kilhawi

Jordan is a land of contrasts: deserts next to lush tropical vegetation; mountains next to a sea below sea level; modern cities and nomadic Bedouin; rich and poor. It is a dynamic country which is developing fast with a growing population, including a large proportion of young people.

IN COMMON with many other countries, these young people are keen to participate in building a society to be proud of and to form stronger links with adults. In common with others, they wish to spend their time usefully and in an enjoyable and exciting manner. It is into this background that we are proud to announce the introduction of the Crown Prince's Award Scheme for Youth Activities under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Prince Hassan has long shown a personal interest in the Award Scheme and has invited us at the International Baccalaureate School (IBS), Amman, to start a pilot scheme. This began in November 1984.

The Award Scheme will be starting with about 40 participants at the Bronze level. The activities will be centred around the school initially but we hope that this pilot scheme will act as a catalyst and spread to other parts of Jordan. We have had many offers to help from a number of organisations and individuals in such areas as Civil Defence, First Aid and Conservation. One of our major service projects involves planting a large area with trees. Much of Jordan is arid and treeless. To start a forest

will take a great deal of enthusiasm and dedication. Yet the benefits, socially and ecologically, would be tremendous. Other projects include liaison with a school for the mentally handicapped and, at a later date, a work camp.

Jordan is a beautiful country with many ancient historical sites. There is so much to see and to explore and so much to find out that we are fortunate in having an almost unlimited choice of areas for expeditions. The participants have shown an interest in expeditions on foot, horseback and maybe even on camels.

We anticipate that our pilot scheme will grow and eventually reach young people in every part of the country. We feel that the natural enthusiasm of Jordanian young people will ensure the success of the scheme and make a significant contribution to the quality of life in the country through the participants' awareness of their own capabilities and an appreciation of the needs of others. Above all we hope it will be fun.

We would like to express our thanks to Mr. Timothy Perry for his very helpful visit in the planning stages of this scheme — Award World.

France, Algeria dispute ownership of 'colonial' archives

By Bruce Alderman

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France — France is slowly returning national archives to Algeria, but remains locked in dispute with its former colony over who owns a remaining stock of potentially explosive political documents.

At stake are 380 tonnes of paper, acquired during France's 130-year rule of the North African Arab Nation and shipped to this southern city in the heat of a four-year colonial war that ended with Algeria's independence in

1962.

French officials at the time left behind much of the routine paperwork accumulated by civil servants working in technical areas. But archives from the governor's office, the police and state security were dispatched to France with great speed.

The Socialist administration of President Francois Mitterrand, keen to improve ties with Algeria, has returned two tiny shipments of the archives, in 1981 and last month.

But moves to repatriate the papers are meeting stiff oppo-

sition from the large "pied noir" population here, some of nearly a million French people who fled Algeria after independence.

The expatriate community, many of them born in Algeria, oppose the return of documents on their private lives and property.

Their feelings are being taken seriously into account because they constitute some 15 per cent of the national vote.

A decision by the External Affairs Ministry to send a new set of archives to Algiers in mid-February was taken only after

members of the community rummaged through the 58 cardboard cartons to make sure they contained nothing but technical papers on irrigation, some dating from the turn of the century.

"This is a sensitive issue for many French citizens, particularly since the first transfer in 1975," said External Affairs Minister Roland Dumas.

A year after the Algerian authorities officially demanded the repatriation of the archives in 1965, a special centre to stockpile them was erected here.

And it was only in 1975 that then President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing flew to Algiers carrying several boxes of documents dating from before the French colonisation of 1830.

When the Socialists took office in 1981, their Interior Minister Gaston Defferre revived the issue by stating: "It is normal that Algeria is interested in the archives."

The Algerians continue to claim what they view as a part of their national heritage.

However archive specialists say negotiations over the transfer of

the documents to Algeria are further complicated by a law passed by the French National Assembly in 1979.

The legislation decrees that certain sensitive documents cannot be consulted for several decades — 30 years for some administrative papers, 60 for police and public security questions and 120 years for personal records.

And according to the specialists, the last problem will be to determine who has the originals and who has the microcopy duplicates.

A Soviet family spends about 3 per cent of income in rent

MOSCOW — Ten million Soviet people will improve their housing conditions in 1985. Most of the apartment houses in the USSR are built on the money from the state budget. Apartments thus built are passed over for tenancy for free. Spending on housing construction will be increased also in 1985, through not only the larger scope of construction but through a better layout, the use of new construction materials and higher wages for building workers. Rents in the USSR are not high and cover only one-third of the maintenance costs. Maintenance is also funded from the state budget. It will take over 5,000 million rubles in 1985, or more than one-fourth of the defence spending. The rent rates have remained unchanged for over half a century.

Today the average-income family spends approximately three per cent of its budget to pay the rent and communal services — electricity, gas, heat-supply, hot water-supply etc.

Housing construction is in high gear also in the Soviet countryside. Farmers usually build family houses on their own money, with easy-term bank credits. Under the 1985 plans, individual housing construction in the countryside will be expanded by 10 per cent. A broader scope of housing construction is provided for also in the long-term plans for social renovation in rural areas. Members of housing cooperatives, too, build housing on their own money with the use of long-term credits. Cooperative and individual construction of houses in

the USSR only slightly tops 15 per cent of the total volume of housing construction.

In contrast to Western countries, there are no apartment houses standing unoccupied because of excessively high rents in the USSR. Besides, there are priority lists for receiving new apartments. Apartments are distributed by the local bodies of people's power with the involvement of public organisations, specifically trade unions. The housing conditions of a family are the chief criterion of being entitled to a new apartment. Thus, the family of a worker with many children is more likely to move earlier to a new flat than that of an engineer with only one or two children — News from the USSR.

Yugoslav Yugo heads for America

Will Americans buy cars from Yugoslavia? Perhaps, when they are planned to sell at \$1,160 less than the cheapest models currently available. Kenneth Gooding reports.

CARS from Yugoslavia go on sale in the U.S. for the first time in June and the venture is so important to that country's economy it is being monitored at the very highest government level.

The project has created more than a ripple of interest in the U.S. because the importer hopes to put one model on sale at \$3,990 — \$1,160 less than the cheapest new car so far available to American buyers.

The man behind the American venture is Mr. Malcolm Bricklin, 45, who has already ensured himself at least a footnote in the U.S. motor industry history books.

He became a millionaire in his early 30s by building up a hardware store chain. Then in 1968 he invested \$12,000 in a company to import the first Subaru cars from Japan.

Last year the company sold more than 158,000 cars in the U.S. and Mr. Bricklin reckons it is worth well over \$500 million on the over-the-counter market.

He sold out to Fuji, producer of the cars, in 1974 because he dreamed of making his own sports cars. The venture failed because he could not get the manufacturing quality right. "I don't want anything to do with manufacturing from now on," he says.

Mr. Bricklin re-surfaced in the motor business in 1982 when Fiat withdrew from the U.S. market and he set up a company to deal directly with the companies which previously made Fiat's sports cars — Bertoni and Pininfarina. That venture has been far from successful in terms of units sold and Bertoni has changed its import arrangements in the U.S.

In view of this recent experience, there is a certain amount of scepticism about the forecasts Mr. Bricklin is making for the Yugo cars he now plans to import. But he claims Yugo America, part of his group of companies, has already spent \$11 million to put the Yugoslavian cars through the safety and emission control tests necessary before they can be legally sold in the U.S.

In fact, the important crash tests have been completed but some minor safety tests have still to be carried out and, while there is a fleet of Yugo cars in Detroit fully kitted out with emission controls to U.S. standards, they have yet to be submitted to the authorities. However, Yugo America is confident the tests will be completed in time for a launch on June 1.

According to Mr. Bricklin, his company has a \$100 million contract to take between 20,000 to 35,000 cars in the first year of production. However, initial interest has been so great that he hopes the factory will be able to provide 70,000. Yugo cars are made by Zastava, Yugoslavia's major automotive group.

Some 50 dealers have been signed up in the "north-east corridor" from Boston to Washington and within a year or so Mr. Bricklin hopes to roll the franchise nationwide and to have 280 to 300 dealers.

In what is claimed to be an industry "first", each dealer has to put up standby credit of \$400,000 to be called in only in certain circumstances, for example if a dealer refused delivery of cars he had ordered.

If all goes to plan, Mr. Bricklin hopes to be selling 220,000 Yugo cars a year in the U.S. in the fifth year of operation, mainly by appealing to those customers who normally could not afford new cars.

That compares with Zastava's total output last year of about 188,000 cars (down by 30,000 from 1983, mainly because the company could not find hard currency for components) and 25,000 commercial vehicles.

It is estimated that every 100,000 cars would earn Zastava and Yugoslavia about \$200 million and explains why the Bricklin agreement bears the signature of Mr. Zivorad Kovacevic, a member of the Yugoslavian government's executive council, who is personally monitoring the situation.

Zastava's car factory at Kragujevac, near Belgrade, was set up

with the help of Fiat of Italy in the early 1960s and for many years the company produced cars to Fiat designs. It still uses Fiat engines but the latest cars were designed in Yugoslavia.

The Yugo 55, to be sold in the U.S., is derived from the Fiat 128 and has a 116cc engine. It will be marketed in the U.S. in two forms, a G.V. (for good value) model at \$3,990 (\$1,160 under the list price of the Chevrolet Sprint, currently the cheapest new car in the U.S.) and a GVX with better specification but still priced under \$5,000.

Production of a larger model — designed by Itat Design in Italy and with engineering help from Porsche of West Germany — has been delayed to 1986 because of currency shortages. But Mr. Michael Heerey, chief executive of the British import company, insists that tooling for the so-called 103/104 range has been completed — "it is not just pie in the sky".

Britain, where over 6,000 Yugo cars were sold last year, is currently the biggest export market. Mr. Heerey, formerly managing director of the company which imports Lada cars to Britain from the Soviet Union, set up Zastava Cars (GB) with motor trader Mr. Dennis Hands, the chairman, in 1980 and began to sell Yugoslavian cars the following year.

All the U.K. company's plans were knocked off course by the price and discount wars which broke out in Britain almost on the day the first Yugo cars took to the roads.

Mr. Heerey says that £3.7 million (\$4 million) has been invested in the company, mostly by General-export, one of Yugoslavia's major trading houses which includes the Yugotour business among its interests. General-export started with a 16.3 per cent shareholding in Zastava (G.B.). Mr. Hands and Mr. Heerey had 51 per cent between them. However, last June the Yugoslavian company acquired a 75 per cent controlling interest.

Zastava is to put in a new production line for the U.S. vehicles and would even be willing to build a new factory if demand requires it. — Financial Times feature

Less Uruguayans have access to treatment

Routine medical treatment is becoming beyond the reach of even middle class Uruguayans. Recession and a legacy of government neglect of public health have allowed private medicine for the well-off to flourish while the diseases of poverty multiply.

By Efrain Quesada

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — If you believe official statistics, staying healthy in Uruguay should be relatively easy. But the figures fail to show the growing gap between those who can afford health care and those who cannot.

Long known as the "Switzerland" of Latin America, Uruguay is the continent's second richest nation (behind Venezuela). But its economy is in deep recession, with real wages falling while the rate of inflation has reached levels of 40-50 per cent per year.

"There is no doubt," says Dr. Felix Rigoli, an Uruguayan general practitioner, "that a country with 200,000 unemployed, a national income half what it was 10 years ago, and where wealth is being concentrated into a few hands at an unprecedented rate, is an unhealthy place".

With external debt mounting at the rate of \$1 million per day, nearly 20 per cent of the population now finds itself excluded from professional health care. Yet average life expectancy is high (71 years), with average daily calorie intake 10 per cent above the Food and Agricultural Organisation's minimum requirement.

Averaged statistics, however, are deceptive. For instance, there are about 6,000 doctors practising in Uruguay, a ratio of one to every 500 inhabitants, the best ratio in Latin America. But a geographical breakdown shows that 80 per cent of these doctors live and work in Montevideo, making the ratio in the rest of the country one to 1,100 inhabitants.

Disparities like these are institutionalised in Uruguay's two-tier health system. Private insurance schemes, known as mutual benefit societies, cover 1.2 million inhabitants. The schemes are running into financial trouble as subscribers hit by recession are forced

to drop out. Monthly contributions come to the equivalent of \$10, while the minimum wage — which is what the bulk of Uruguayans earn — is now less than \$80 a month.

Membership in private insurance schemes is falling at the rate of 1.5-2 per cent per month, following a 1983 change in subscription arrangements which removed 30 per cent of the members in a stroke. Within the societies, there is one doctor for every 250 subscribers. In the public health system, the only alternative source of medical treatment, the ratio is one to 750.

Those whose declining real incomes force them out must rely on the inadequate publicly financed health service. This system is responsible for more than one million

people. Its decrepit state is due not only to economic recession, but to the government of General Gregorio Alvarez Armelino, which declared in 1983 that "social spending is superfluous".

The drop in real wages has been accompanied by mushrooming slum districts known as "cantagris". Makeshift housing made from tin, cardboard and wood was in 1965 confined to two districts of Montevideo. Now there are 34 districts with no sanitation, running water, electric lights or sewers.

In families covered by the mutual insurance system the infant mortality rate is 13.4 per 1,000. The rate in the public health system is 50 per 1,000.

Hygiene in public hospitals leaves much to be desired. According to the Montevideo weekly "Jaque", "Cockroaches are a constant problem, and they have even been seen crawling over the children, in the incubators and in the

feeding bottles". Mothers who had just given birth complained that a meal they were served contained maggots. Doctors reported that "disposable needles are not disposed of".

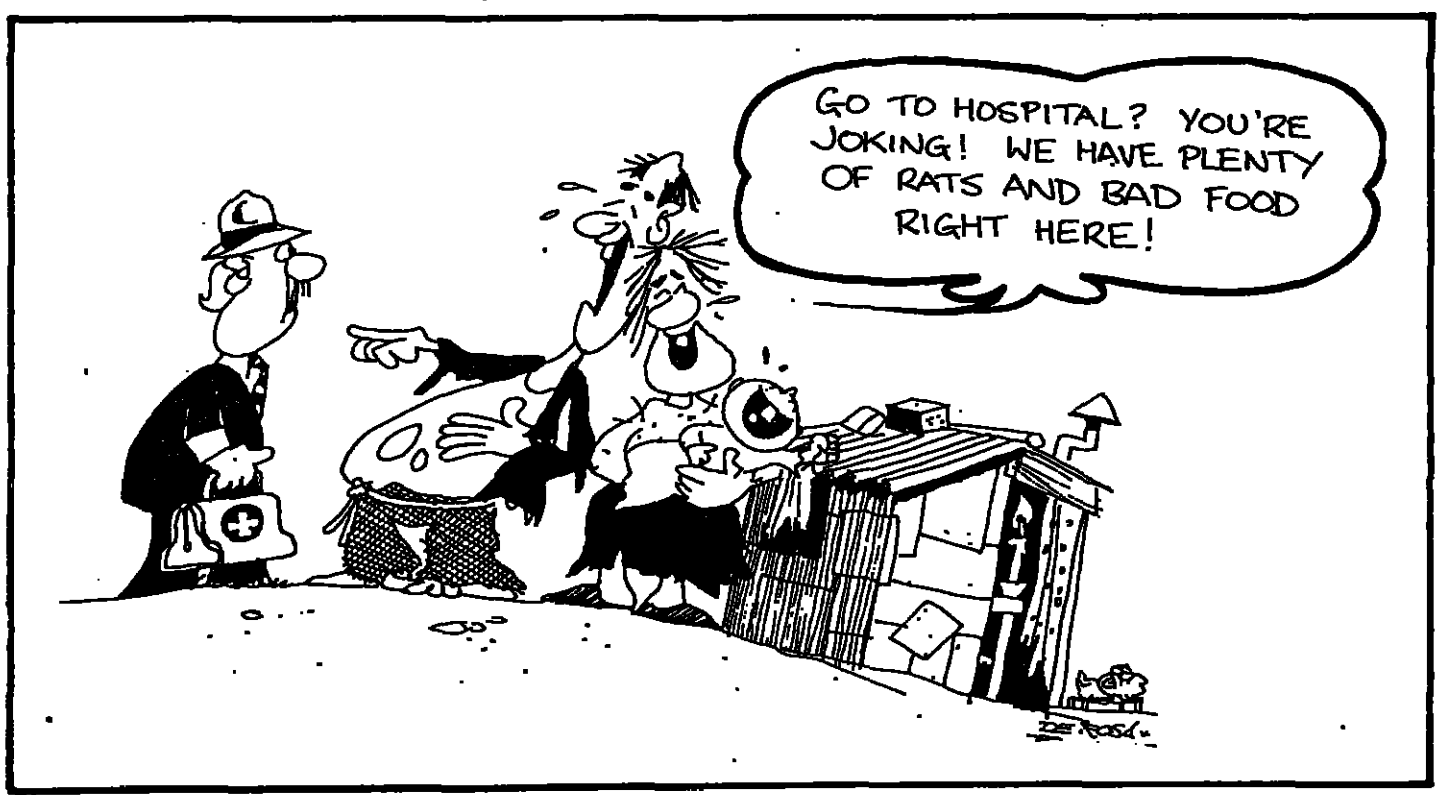
Meanwhile, medical resources are being concentrated into private clinics and hospitals for the wealthy few. "Jaque" recently reported that there are now private treatment centres "which cover everything from heart attacks and brain tumours to sports injuries and plastic hips. There is a whole supermarket of medical innovations, all admittedly very important for health, but also showing great profits for the directors of the medical corporations".

Simultaneously, the financial contribution made by the state to health care remains minuscule. The 1983 national Public Investment Plan earmarked 53 per cent for the Ministry of Public Works, including barracks, roads

and housing for the military. Internal security (the internal and Defence Ministries) received 22 per cent, while only 1.7 per cent was set aside for the Ministry of Health.

Last year a report produced by a coalition of the democratic political parties, trade unions and health specialists said that "in Uruguay there is no real or legal right to health care", and that "medical treatment has become a commodity". The poor have long been aware of this, but for the newly impoverished middle classes it has come as a rude shock. Their pressure on the newly elected government of Dr. Julio Maria Sanguinetti is likely to be intense.

Whether the government is willing or able to rectify Uruguay's health care mess through the creation of a single national health service remains to be seen — Earthscan feature.



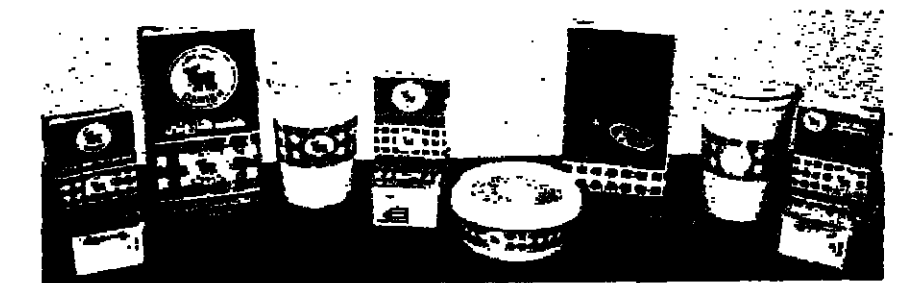
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Paraguay-France Davis Cup tie ends in controversy

ASUNCION (R) — Paraguay's tennis chief Tuesday blamed opposing captain Jean-Paul Loth for the fracas at the end of France's controversial Davis Cup defeat Monday.

Paraguay Tennis Federation President Alejandro Velasquez Ugarte said Loth deliberately provoked the Paraguayan crowd with obscene gestures, though he denied that members of the French team had hit a line judge and said he was unaware a visiting journalist had been knocked unconscious.

"Loth and members of his team kept making obscene gestures to the spectators. There were no obscene gestures from the Paraguayan spectators", Ugarte told Reuters.

Loth had a different opinion of the incidents that occurred during and after Victor Pecci's four-set win over Henri Leconte which gave Paraguay a 3-2 win.

Loth said spectators and some Paraguayan officials made repeated obscene noises and gestures and that a television reporter was knocked out as tempers flared at the end of the tie.

"It is scandalous to have to play in such circumstances," he told

Reuters.

Philippe Chatrier, the French President of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said the atmosphere was more than that of a football or boxing event than a Davis Cup tie.

The Paraguayan daily Ultima Hora carried a picture showing several members of the French team brandishing rackets over the head of a Paraguayan spectator, but Loth denied reports he and a player had hit a line judge.

Loth said he had asked for a line judge to be removed after he made obscene gestures at Yannick Noah over close line calls in an earlier match.

The French captain said the line judge made gestures and noises whenever Noah served. Some members of the French team went over to him and a row started but no blows were exchanged, he said.

Tempers flared again at the end of the tie when a French journalist clashed with a spectator. "He lay unconscious for 15 minutes and

when I asked a Paraguayan official help him, he gestured meaning 'go to hell'," Loth said.

Loth told Agence France Presse in a telephone interview broadcast in France that the incident provoked by the spectator could have led to a brawl but for the self-restraint of the French players.

He said Australian referee Bob Howe had acted feebly during the tie, and added he would write to Chatrier and the Davis Cup commission demanding the suspension of Asuncion as a venue.

Glasgow Rangers beats Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — Scottish club Glasgow Rangers Tuesday defeated the national Kuwaiti team 2-1 (halftime 0-0) at Amman's Sports City stadium.

A goal in the dying minutes of the match scored by John McDonald gave the Scottish team victory, only seconds after Kuwait scored the equaliser through Abdullah Al Baloushi.

Rangers first goal was scored in the 58th minute by Alistair McClelland who blasted a 25-metre shot past the Kuwaiti goalkeeper.

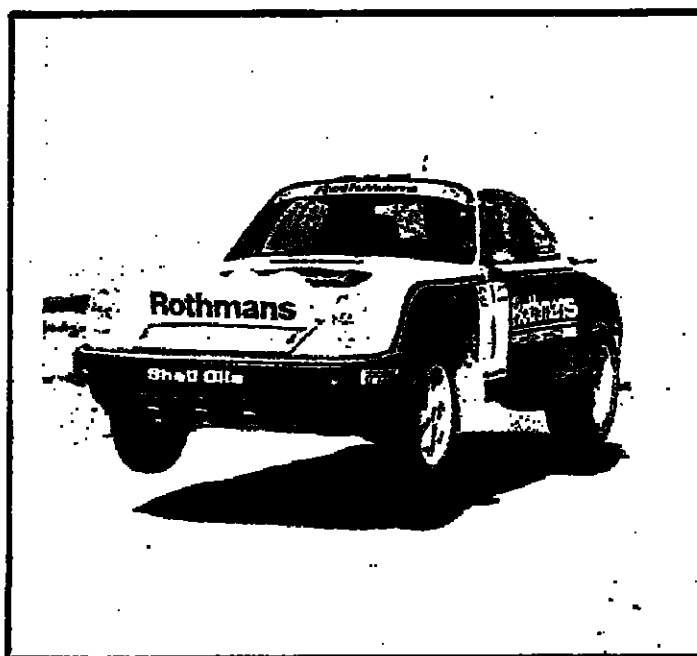
Kuwait, 1982 World Cup finalists are training in Amman in preparation for their World Cup bid which starts on March 22 with a qualifying match against Syria. Kuwait were also beaten 1-0 last Friday by English club Tottenham Hotspur.

Cash named Australian No. 1

SYDNEY (R) — Pat Cash, who reached the Wimbledon and U.S. open semifinals last year, was Tuesday named Australia's new number one men's player.

The 19-year-old from Melbourne, ranked eighth in the world, was third last year behind John Fitzgerald and Paul McNamee. Fitzgerald has slipped to number two in the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia's 1984 rankings. McNamee is fourth.

Queenslander John Frawley has jumped from 12th to third after a year of consistent advancement.



Hondurans gain revenge over El Salvador in qualifier

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Honduras grabbed two priceless World Cup points Monday night when they beat traditional soccer rivals El Salvador 2-1 to move to the top of their qualifying group with just one tie remaining.

The result means Hondurans, who have taken five points from three games, need only draw with El Salvador at home on Thursday to reach the next phase of the Northern Central American and Caribbean Confederation (CONCACAF) qualifying competition.

Not that the Hondurans, who played in the 1982 finals in Spain,

will expect everything their own way in Tegucigalpa in three days time.

The two countries went to war 16 years ago after their qualifying ties for the 1970 finals when El Salvador went on to Mexico, but Honduras must now be confident of making the same trip in 1986.

Honduras took a first minute lead when Jimmy Bailey scored with a drive from outside the penalty area and although El Salvador equalised 18 minutes after the break through Jose Maria Rivas, Anthony Laing struck the winning goal 13 minutes from time.

Ecology group moves to ban Rome Grand Prix

ROME (R) — An Italian ecology group Tuesday asked a magistrate to ban the inaugural Rome Grand Prix motor race on the grounds that the event would endanger the environment and the health of inhabitants.

The Formula One race is scheduled to be held on October 13 on a 3.7-km circuit around a main highway in the southern suburb of Eur.

Organisers said Monday they planned to resurface and widen the road, cut down 14 trees and build three grandstands to seat 65,000 spectators.

Rome's communist mayor Ugo Vetere has backed plans for the race, but the league for the environment said Tuesday many residents of Eur, which was designed by Benito Mussolini's architects as a permanent exhibition centre, had signed a petition against the Grand Prix.

League President Enrico Testa told the magistrates his group objected to a race on a city circuit because of the noise, possible danger to residents and harm to the environment.

Legal sources said the magistrate would announce his decision in the next few days.

ITF to stage junior tennis

TOKYO (AP) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has decided to start a world team competition for junior players, and the first finals will be played in Japan this fall. ITF officials announced Tuesday.

The officials said tennis players aged 16 or under are eligible to participate in separate boys' and girls' events in the new ITF World Youth Cup.

The ITF, the governing body of tennis, with a membership of 116 national associations, already has two major international team competitions — the prestigious Davis Cup for men and the Federation Cup for women.

26 entrants vie for Jerash Rally honours

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Twenty-six participants, five of them newcomers, are taking part in Friday's Rothmans-Jerash Rally, the first rallying event of the season in Jordan.

Almost all of the prominent rally drivers are taking part in the event, including last year's national champion David Jepson, veteran George Haddad, George Khayyat and Nabil Karam, and one female participant, Randa Nabulsi.

The participant cars range from Toyota Celica, BMW, Peugeot and Audi to Nissan, Daihatsu, Renault and Volvo. Several "mini" cars, including a Volkswagen Beach Buggy, an Austin and a Morris, will also race off, at least to show their merits if not to win, when the event gets under way at 9.30 a.m. at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) near the Eighth Circle.

"Mostly, it will be the driver's skill rather than the quality of the car that determines the winner of Friday's event," says Derek Ledger, general manager of the RAC. He explained that unlike previous rallying events, the Rothmans-Jerash Rally route does not include any "rough terrain" or desert or long stretches where powerful cars enjoy a distinct advantage.

On the contrary, the route for Friday's event, which would cover a total distance of 220 kilometres, including 70 kilometres of "special stages", is through mountainous, twisting roads, where driving skill rather than machine power will be under test.

The route, which will also form part of the Middle East Championship Rally route this year in July, begins at the RAC premises and passes through Zai, Oum Jouza, Beqa's, and crossing the bridge over Zarqa River to the King Talal Dam and Dibbin before finishing at the Jerash Visitor's Centre.

The first car is expected to reach the finishing point at 12.15 noon for rest until 2.15 p.m. when the cars begin their return journey to Amman through the same routes in the reverse direction. The first car is due back at the RAC around 4.30 p.m. and final results are expected to be announced after one hour.

"I doubt whether any of the drivers will use the top gear through this route," Mr. Ledger said. "The entire route consists of steep climbs and sharp curves and speeding is just not possible."

George Haddad and co-driver Fawzi Sawalha, driving a Toyota Celica are in pole position for Friday's rally, followed by George Khayyat and Kieff Ferry (Nissan 240 RS), Nabil Dirani and Gordon Almond (Nissan 240 RS), Nabil Karam and Samir Zeine (Opel 400), David Jepson and his

wife Barbara (Talbot Sunbeam TI) and Imad Bustami and Nader Majali (Nissan Silvia 200 SX) in the next five positions. All participant cars will be flagged off at three-minute intervals.

The start position of various cars and drivers was determined "mostly on the basis of previous records of drivers and the power of their cars," Mr. Ledger said. "The most powerful cars are placed in the pole positions after evaluating the drivers' previous records."

Most enthusiasts of car rallying in Jordan expect Friday's winner to emerge from the group of the first six or seven cars, in that the most skilled and experienced drivers are in that group. However, Hani Bisharat and Amr Bilbeisi (Toyota Celica), Haniham Mufli and Bill Gwynne (Daihatsu Charmant) and Suhail Marar and Jiries Sawalha (Toyota Corolla) could also pose serious challenges to the leading contenders.

Two of the notable names absent from the final list for Friday's event are of His Highness Prince Abdullah bin Hussein and veteran Haile Aguilier, both of whom have taken part in previous rallies. Aguilier, who has over 20 years of rallying experience behind him, had taken part in every rallying event in Jordan. He is believed to be out of the country at the present.

As in previous events, the RAC has once again proved that it justifiably deserves to be described as the best organisers of rallying in the Middle East. Full police and traffic control, doctors and ambulances at every "special stage", radio communications spread throughout the entire route and computerised results are part of the RAC arrangements for Friday's event. "We will also have a life guard with full diving gear posted near King Talal reservoir, just in case," Mr. Ledger added.

He explained that the rally route runs almost touching the lake — "in some parts the route is less than five metres from the water".

Commenting on another organisational aspect of the event, Mr. Ledger said the RAC had to gravel a "special stage" which was totally damaged by the recent snow. In another case, the club had to send a bulldozer to a "special stage" near Alouk where a landslide had blocked the road.

About 30 RAC officials will supervise the event in addition to members of the Royal Amateur

Radio Society who will be in charge of radio communications among rally officials as well as links with the computer system at the RAC premises.

This year, the RAC is offering championships in four different categories, Mr. Ledger said. The four are:

— Driver's championship based on the aggregate total points secured by a driver in the three national rally events this year and the 1985 Jordan leg of the Middle East Championship.

Co-driver championship based on criteria same as above. — Manufacturer championship based on the performance of cars and points secured in the rallying events this year.

— "Group A" Championship for basic, standard model cars securing highest aggregate total in the rallying events.

In addition to the actual rallying events, the RAC is also holding four auto tests, mostly speed tests, inside a maze of roads on the club grounds. The first of the four tests was held last month.

The winners of the national championships are decided on the basis of total points secured in the three rallying events and the auto tests.

George Khayyat scored 13 points in the February auto test, followed by Yamil Komok with 10.5 points, Nabil Dirani (nine points), Imad Bustami (eight points), Suhail Marar (seven points), Abdel Ilah Tabba (six points), Hassan Tabaa (five points), David Jepson (4.5 points), George Haddad (four points) and Hamid Ghazi (3.5 points). The rest got three points each.

Of a total of 55 aspirants, only 40 qualified to compete in the auto test. Twenty-nine of them managed to complete the test and were awarded points.

Al Pasha Juices sponsored the February auto test while the British cigarette makers Rothmans are sponsoring all the rallying events this year, including the Jordan leg of the Middle East Championship.

The two other national rallies — the Rothmans Desert Castles Rally and the Rothmans Kings Highway rally — are scheduled to be held on May 3 and Nov. 15 respectively.

The Jordan leg of the Middle East Championship is scheduled to be held over three days — July 10, 11 and 12.

Chess match likely to have 24-game limit

MADRID (R) — The head of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) said Tuesday the world title rematch due in September could be limited to 24 games with the first to six victories deciding the winner.

Florencio Campomanes, in Madrid on his way to South America for a private visit, told new-

smen that only the Soviet Union had so far applied formally to stage the rematch between champion Anatoly Karpov and challenger Garry Kasparov.

He said several other bids, including those from London and Barcelona, were expected to be formally submitted before the FIDE General Assembly decision.

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World leaders offer condolences on death of Soviet leader

Chernenko to be remembered for decision to resume arms talks

NEW YORK (AP) — World leaders offered their condolences Monday on the death of Konstantin Chernenko and said the Soviet leader would be remembered for his decision to resume arms-control negotiations with the United States.

Several urged his successor, Mikhail Gorbachev, to work to maintain a dialogue between the two superpowers, whose negotiators returned to the arms bargaining table Tuesday in Geneva, Switzerland.

President Ronald Reagan, in a message to acting head of state Vasily Kuznetsov, said, "I wish to reiterate the strong desire of the American people for world peace."

Noting the Geneva talks were set to begin, he said, "we must seize the opportunities for peace." West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he didn't think Mr. Chernenko's death would hurt the arms discussions since "all indications are that both sides have a serious desire to negotiate."

Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke noted that Mr. Chernenko's brief, 13-month tenure in office "saw the resumption of the vitally important arms control talks between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a message to the Kremlin, said Mr. Chernenko's death Sunday at age 73 "deprives the Soviet Union of an experienced leader." China, which has been at ideological odds with the Kremlin for years, called Mr. Chernenko an "outstanding leader." A foreign ministry statement expressed hope that "positive tendencies"

Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlager will go to Moscow as will Gen. Mohammed Zia Ul Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, and Premier Turgut Ozal of Turkey. Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will also attend.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said he regretted Mr. Chernenko "passed away without having had the chance to realize" the goal of relaxed tensions between the superpowers.

Italian Premier Bettino Craxi, referring to the arms talks, said: "The Soviet Union already has been in the process of making a perceptible change in its attitude." In Afghanistan, President Babrak Karmal expressed "grief and sorrow" at the death, according to Radio Afghanistan, monitored in Islamabad, Pakistan. Mr. Karmal was installed will Soviet backing in a 1979 coup and more than 100,000 Soviet soldiers are helping Mr. Karmal's troops fight anti-Communist rebels.

Syrian President Hafez Assad praised Mr. Chernenko for his support "in our struggle against Israeli occupation," and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said he wanted to continue the "friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union."

In the Soviet Bloc, state-run radio and television stations interrupted their regular programmes to announce Mr. Chernenko's death after a "grave illness." East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania declared official days of mourning.

In East Berlin, hundreds of East Germans lined up outside the Soviet embassy to sign the official book of condolences, set up before a black-draped portrait of Mr. Chernenko.



The body of the late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko lies in state at Moscow's House of Unions Monday (AP wirephoto)

Gorbachev's succession 'unusually swift'

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev came to power as Soviet Communist Party leader with unusual speed, being named overlord of this vast nation less than 24 hours after the death of President Konstantin Chernenko.

The lightning pace at which events unfolded Monday contrasted with the almost 19-hour delay in announcing Mr. Chernenko's death, and with previous successions that have taken days to complete.

Western diplomats who follow Soviet politics suggested Mr. Chernenko's evident frailty and Mr. Gorbachev's emergence over the past year as the Kremlin No. 2 accounted for the speedy succession.

"Given Chernenko's condition — it was obvious that he was going to die in the near future — the wrangling was done earlier," said one diplomat who, like others, spoke on condition he not be identified.

Before Mr. Chernenko's death was officially announced at 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) Monday there had been speculation that he had died. Soviet Radio and television switched from regular programmes to broadcasts of somber classical music and two politburo members cut short visits abroad and made

hurried arrangements to return to Moscow.

Events moved swiftly after the announcement that Mr. Chernenko had died of lung and liver disease at 7:20 p.m. (1600 GMT) Sunday.

Within 45 minutes of the announcement, Mr. Gorbachev had been named head of the commission arranging Mr. Chernenko's funeral, a job often given to the successor.

The funeral was scheduled for Wednesday, details of mourning rituals were made known and the medical report on Mr. Chernenko was released.

"It's just going bang, bang, bang," said one Western diplomat at that point. "It looks pretty much as though it's been worked out in advance which makes it seem as if Gorbachev is the heir apparent."

At 6:15 p.m. (1515 GMT), the Official News Agency TASS announced Mr. Gorbachev, 54, had been chosen new general secretary at an extraordinary meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee.

Within two hours, TASS had published an official biography, offered portraits of the new leader for transmission worldwide and released details of the speech Mr.

Chernenko made in accepting his new post.

The extraordinary speed meant that Soviets watching their national evening television news broadcast at 9 p.m. (1800 GMT) learned of Mr. Chernenko's death and Mr. Gorbachev's accession in one marathon 77-minute bulletin.

The news also showed film of the new leader and other politburo members going to the red-and-black draped Hall of Columns in the House of Unions for the traditional viewing of the body.

The 300-plus members of the Central Committee gathered somberly around the flower-decked open bier where Mr. Chernenko lay. Mr. Gorbachev, heading the politburo lineup, was shown offering condolences to Mr. Chernenko's widow, Anna, and other family members.

Traditionally, politburo members wait until the day after a leader's death is announced before viewing the body.

On Monday, the ruling elite did not even wait for politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitsky to return from a visit to the United States.

Mr. Chernenko was not named Communist Party head until four days after Mr. Andropov died.

Thais say some Vietnamese driven out

SURIN, Thailand (R) — The Thai army said Tuesday it had driven out some of more than 3,000 Vietnamese soldiers who crossed into Thailand from Kampuchea but predicted a hard fight to expel the rest.

Vietnamese and Thai forces clashed early Tuesday on hills in

north east Thailand opposite the Kampuchean guerrilla base of Green Hill, captured by Hanoi's troops Monday. Thai soldiers said. But by mid-morning few sounds of battle were heard. Thai officers kept journalists 12 kilometres away from the embattled border area.

Sihanoukian National Army (ANS) guerrillas abandoned Green Hill — also known as Tatum — after holding for a week against Vietnamese artillery barrages and infantry attacks.

Many of them gathered Tuesday at a Buddhist temple here to pay respects to Gen. King Men, the commander of Green Hill, who was killed last Friday.

With the capture of Green Hill, the Vietnamese seized the last major border base left to the guerrilla Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in 1978 and Western diplomats estimate it has 160,000 to 180,000 troops there backing the Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh.

Sikhs welcome release of Akali Dal leaders

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh politicians and high priests Tuesday welcomed the release of eight leaders of their religion but demanded freedom for other jailed Sikhs before starting talks with the Indian government on the crisis in Punjab state.

The released leaders include Harbans Singh Longowal, president of the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, which spearheaded a campaign for greater autonomy for Punjab where most of India's Sikhs live.

The Akali Dal was criticised for not putting down the activities of extremists who want a separate

104 police killed in China's crime crackdown

PEKING (R) — Chinese leaders have revealed that police are suffering heavy casualties in China's war on crime and have warned against police torture, corruption and abuse of power, the New China News Agency reported.

At least 104 policemen were killed and 1,022 injured during the campaign over the last 18 months. Public Security Vice-Minister Hu Zhigang told a conference Monday.

Public Security Minister Liu Fuzhi praised the police efforts but urged them to reject the use of their powers for their own interest and to respect and enforce the law.

"He called for a firm stand against torture, abuse, bribery, embezzlement and fraud and for nationwide specialised training to improve competence," the New China News Agency reported Mr. Liu as saying.

"He recommended meticulous investigation with no prejudging of issues and said the police should never be afraid of admitting and correcting mistakes," the agency said.

The agency gave no breakdown of causes for police casualties during the campaign.

However, in a notorious case in 1983 the robber brothers Wang Zongwei and Wang Zongfang gunned down at least five policemen during a desperate pursuit across China before dying in a hail of police bullets.

Knowing that the penalty for many serious crimes will almost inevitably be death, Chinese criminals sometimes try to shoot their way out of trouble rather than surrender.

Foreign jurists estimate that China has shot more than 10,000 criminals for crimes ranging from murder, rape and fraud to hooliganism since the government ordered harsh penalties to control crime in September 1983.

New Zealand says Soviet icebreakers are not exempt from nuclear policy

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange told parliament Tuesday Soviet nuclear-powered icebreakers would be refused entry to this country's ports under his nuclear-free policy.

But Mr. Lange told the leader of conservative opposition National Party, Jim McLay, the icebreakers would not be prevented from entering the Ross Dependency, New Zealand's Antarctic claim.

Territorial claims in the Antarctic are not recognised by either the United States or the Soviet Union, but the ice-bound continent is internationally regarded as a demilitarised and nuclear-free zone.

Soviet and U.S. icebreakers regularly visit New Zealand on their way to the Antarctic, but a spokesman for Mr. McLay told Reuters he knew of no planned

visits of nuclear-powered ones.

Mr. Lange's Labour government has banned port calls by vessels which are nuclear-powered, or may be carrying nuclear weapons.

The Soviet Union has seven bases on the Antarctic coast, but none in the Ross Dependency where New Zealand and the United States have their main bases.

Lange to visit Africa

Mr. Lange said Tuesday he would make a five-nation visit to Africa next month, the first major official visit to the continent by a New Zealand leader.

Mr. Lange said in a statement he would spend 19 days visiting Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. He would also have talks in Delhi and Canberra on his return.

Political analysts said Mr. Lange's trip had been timed to allow him to meet African leaders before the New Zealand Rugby Football Union announces its anticipated acceptance of an invitation to tour South Africa during the southern winter.

Mr. Lange is due to meet the Rugby Union Council is scheduled to meet on April 17 but has refused to say when it will formally respond to the South African invitation.

In 1976 when New Zealand's national all blacks side toured South Africa, black African nations responded by boycotting the Montreal Olympic Games.

NASA may switch back to Challenger

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA is considering shifting the next space shuttle flight from Discovery to Challenger, which originally had been assigned the mission, officials have said.

Discovery was handed the flight last week after one of the satellites in Challenger's cargo bay became defective. But on Friday, a bucket weighing more than one ton used to transport workers broke loose and smashed into Discovery, inflicting two deep gashes in the ship's cargo bay door. A workman suffered a broken leg in the accident.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said Monday it is trying to decide whether to fly the mission with a repaired Discovery or to reassign it to Challenger. Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity

said Challenger could be ready for launch about April 13. If Discovery keeps the flight, the launch would be about April 19, they said.

There are some complications, however.

When the mission was shifted to Discovery, the space agency decided to fly one satellite from Challenger's manifest and one from Discovery's and to drop plans to retrieve a science satellite left in orbit a year ago.

The shift also meant that one of Challenger's seven crew members, French Astronaut Patrick Baudry, had to be dropped because his medical test equipment no longer would fit in Discovery's cabin because equipment for a drug processing experiment already was installed there. Instead, Charles Walker, who was to process the drugs on Discovery's

flight, replaced Baudry and the Frenchman was reassigned to a flight in June.

If Challenger is selected for the upcoming flight, that means Baudry probably would get his original assignment back.

U.S. senator Jake Garn, who is on the crew as a congressional observer, had a tough luck making his long-sought space flight. Challenger originally was to have been launched Feb. 20, but liftoff was delayed three times by technical problems before the mission was canceled.

Discovery then was to have been launched March 28, but fell victim to the falling bucket. Of these two shuttles, the one that does not fly the Garn crew will be outfitted to carry a European-built space laboratory on the following mission.

Shots were heard seconds later but the murder was not captured on film.

Most of the accused watched intently as the film was played. A few gasped at the ground and one held his head in his hands.

5 Egyptians sentenced to death for rape

CAIRO (R) — A court here has sentenced to death by hanging five Egyptian youths accused of kidnapping and raping an 18-year-old girl. The five, aged between 18 and 24, can appeal against the criminal court verdict. They were also accused of robbing the girl's fiancé. The rape, in a fashionable Cairo suburb last January, caused an uproar in parliament, with members calling for stricter punishment of offenders following an increase in the number of rapes. Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi told parliament that only 14 cases of rape were reported last year.

Malaysians ordered to keep face uncovered

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has banned civil servants from wearing Islamic-style clothing which covers the face, according to a government minister. The ban on masking the face during working hours would help communication between officials and the public. Datuk Khalil Yacob, minister in the Prime Minister's Department, told reporters. "It would not only be difficult to recognise a person who wears clothes that cover his or her face but it would also hinder personal communication," he said. The ban did not cover the flowing headgear worn by a number of Malay women civil servants, an official said. Such clothing, which covers head and shoulders, has grown in popularity among some of Malaysia's seven million majority Muslims in the past five years.

Egyptian receives U.S. science award

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Muhammad Al Naggar, assistant professor of electrical engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is one of 200 recipients of the "Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation. The awards, which fund research by young faculty members, are intended to help universities attract and retain outstanding young scientists who might otherwise pursue non-teaching careers. Officials said each recipient will receive up to \$100,000 annually for five years in a combination of federal and matching private funds. A native of Egypt, Al Naggar received his Master of Science degree from the University of Cairo in 1978 and his doctoral degree from the University of Manitoba in 1983. Official said the award will help to support his research in integrated circuit chips, which are used in computers, calculators and wristwatches.

Release of tapes of alleged bribes banned

MIAMI, Florida (AP) — A Federal judge has banned the release "prior to indictment" of videotapes that the U.S. government says include a recording of bribe payments to the chief minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Norman Saunders, 41, chief minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, two other officials of the British dependency — Stafford Miskick, 47, and Auden Smith, 33 — and Andre Fournier, 46, a Canadian businessman, were arrested last Tuesday by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. They were taken into custody at a Miami motel following the alleged bribe payment and were charged with cocaine and marijuana conspiracy. The NBC Television Network and three Miami television stations last week had sought to obtain those portions of the tape which were shown Wednesday before U.S. Magistrate Herbert Shapiro at a bond hearing.

Reagan enjoying good health

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's annual physical examination showed he was in good health although tests disclosed traces of blood in his excrement. White House Spokesman Larry Speakes said. The tests on the 74-year-old Reagan, conducted at the Bethesda Naval Medical Institute last Friday, did reveal a small benign polyp in the lower intestine similar to one found during his previous physical examination last May 18, Mr. Speakes added. Two of four studies of the faeces disclosed blood traces, but doctors said this could be from the polyp or from diet.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠KQ109 76 ♠A142 ♠K973
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—If you double, you are running a double risk. First, partner probably will bid hearts, and that would force you to name a new suit at the three-level. The opponents might just decide it was time to start doubling. Secondly, the opponents might be in trouble in spades and you could easily drive them to a better spot. As a general rule, when the opponents are in your best suit, pass.
 Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠983 ♠AK6 ♠AK7 ♠AK5
 What is your opening bid?
 A.—No matter what bid you choose, it will be flawed. So you must settle for the bid that comes closest to describing your hand. You have a balanced hand of 23 points. The flaw is that one suit is unguarded. Nevertheless, an opening bid of two no trump is least likely to cause your side problems later.
 Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠KJ6 ♠1065 ♠KQ952 ♠92
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—Don't bid two diamonds — that could easily propel your side too high on a hand that could be a partial misfit. The only sensible action is one no trump. That describes both the strength and shape of your hand accurately, and also tells partner that you have the opponents' suit stopped.
 Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AKJ6 ♠AK53 ♠J ♠Q1063
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East